

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-82 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, 13, 28, 39, 58, 66, and 74 being the independent claims.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner and Primary Examiner Jean M. Correlius for the personal interview on December 16, 2004, and now make the substance of the interview of record per 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b).

During the interview, Applicant and the Examiners discussed the rejection of claims 1 and 3 based on U.S. Patent No. 6,584,480 to Ferrel et al. Applicant maintained their previous arguments that Ferrel does not teach or suggest the features recited in claims 1-82 (See, Response to Non-Final Office Action, filed May 18, 2004) and agreed to amend the independent claims to clarify the claims.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 13, 28, 39, 58, 66, and 74 have been amended to include allowable subject matter not taught by any of the references, alone or in combination, cited in the outstanding Office Action. The remaining dependent claims 2, 4-12, 14-27, 29-38, 40—57, 59-65, 67-73, and 75-82 depend variously from claims 1, 3, 13, 28, 39, 58, 66, and 74 and are allowable as being dependent from allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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